



Daily Report

West Europe

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29 January 1996

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January 1996

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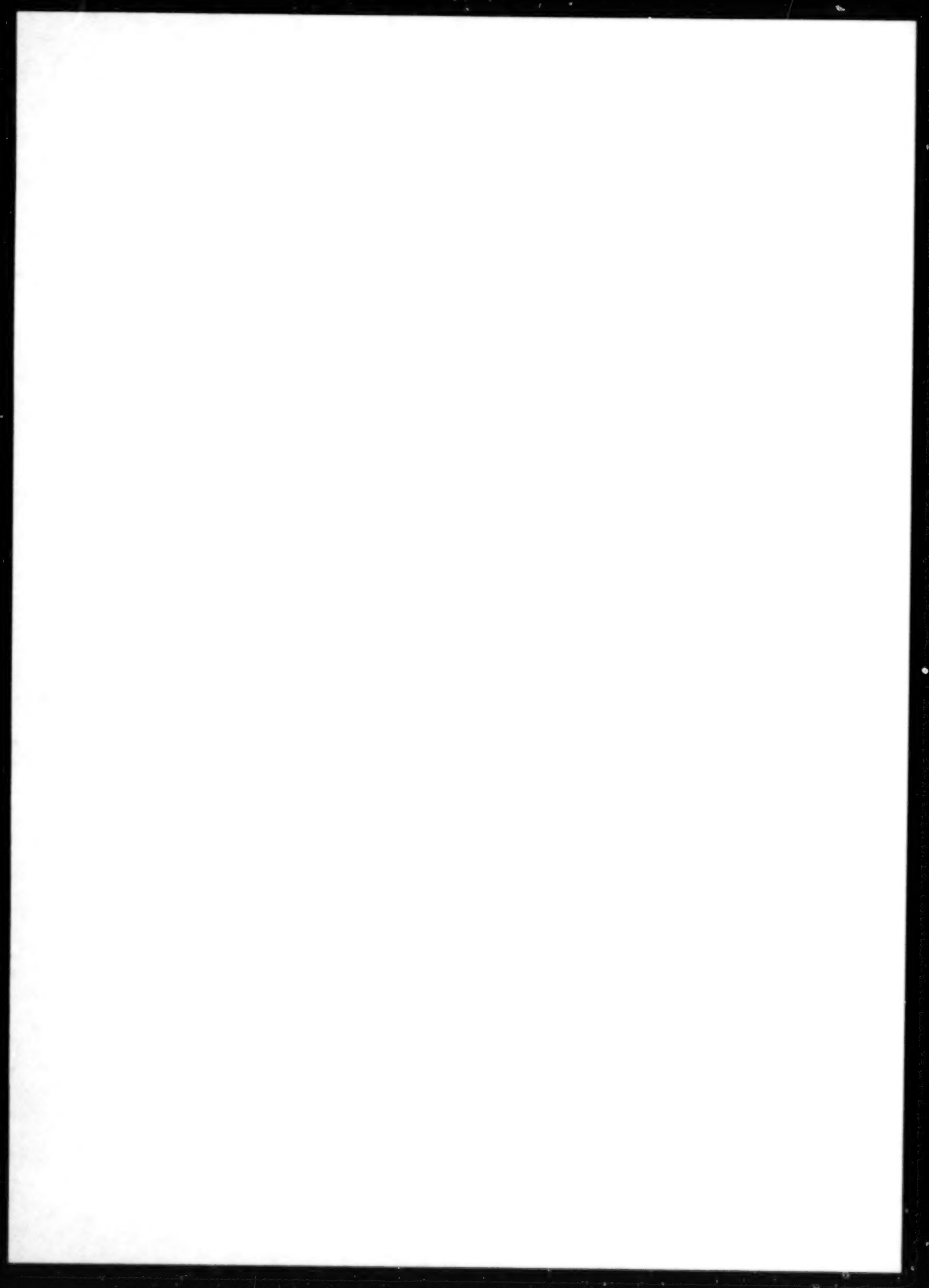
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EU: Santer, Westendorp on Postponement of EMU
BR2501140196 Madrid EL MUNDO in Spanish
25 Jan 96 p 38

[Report by Julian Gonzalez and Carlos Segovia: "Westendorp Acknowledges That There Is 'Crisis of Credibility' Over EMU"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Madrid/Brussels — [Spanish] Foreign Minister Carlos Westendorp acknowledged that there is a certain crisis of credibility among the EU member countries with respect to the timetable for monetary union, although he denied that "delaying" the date of 1 January 1999 is being contemplated.

The foreign minister thus tried to settle the controversy which arose last Tuesday when he admitted the possibility that there could be a "stopping of the clock" — not a postponement — of Economic and Monetary Union [EMU], "until there is a sufficient number of countries able to meet the convergence criteria at the envisaged date."

The foreign minister stated that over the past two weeks certain moves have been observed by personalities who were initially convinced of the timetable and "are now showing themselves skeptical," and, on the other hand, "politicians who were previously very critical are now stating that they are very close to the Maastricht conditions and timetable," he added.

Carlos Westendorp showed himself convinced throughout that the convergence criteria and dates must be maintained.

At the news conference which the foreign minister called yesterday to "refute" his aforementioned arguments, Westendorp tried to make it clear that the Spanish Government's stance is that the single currency should be effected on the terms agreed at the recent "Madrid summit, and that the date of 1 January 1999 will be maintained."

The minister ruled out throughout the idea of a postponement, but stated that "in the hypothetical case of the clock's having to be stopped, the monetary criteria would be maintained."

Unity

Westendorp repeated again that he "could not imagine a monetary union without France and Germany," just

as he would not understand Spain, Italy, or the United Kingdom not being in it. The foreign minister argued that although the plan allows dispensing with the "critical mass," "in any event, it is unifying and it would not be good for these three countries to stay out."

Carlos Westendorp's statements yesterday met with an immediate response by European Commission President Jacques Santer, who attacked from Brussels the Spanish minister and all those who make statements which could call into question the timetable for the single currency, when hardly a month has elapsed since the Madrid summit.

Santer asked the discordant voices on monetary union to refrain from sowing doubts among European citizens. "It is irresponsible to sow doubt with respect to the timetable," Santer asserted at an international press conference in Brussels, when asked about the Spanish minister's statements.

In Santer's opinion, EMU will arrive 1 January 1999, which means that the Euro really will be in citizens' pockets from 2002, and he asserted that "stopping the clock will not prevent the 21st century from arriving."

Santer, "as the treaty's guardian," attacked the legal formula of "stopping the clock" in 1999 to give time for more countries to meet the Maastricht Treaty's criteria. "That is all right at agriculture ministers' meetings, but not in the major challenges of history. What sense does it make to stop the clock, if time is moving on?"

Fast Track

The Commission president would not say whether, for EMU to be a success, it is necessary for all the most heavily populated countries to be in the fast track group (Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, and Spain). "Two countries are sufficient for EMU," he joked, but he showed himself convinced that by 1998 there will be a "substantial" number of member countries which will meet the requirements, "including some of the most heavily populated," and he asserted that the United Kingdom will finally relinquish its opt-out clause and agree to form part of the group of countries adopting the Euro first. [passage omitted]

UK: Adams Rejects Major's Call for Elections

LD2601145696 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 1424 GMT 26 Jan 96

[By Ian Graham, PA News]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams today accused John Major of putting his hold on political power before peace in Northern Ireland.

He said by opting for a Unionist agenda of elections he was replacing the pre-condition of decommissioning before all-party talks with yet another pre-condition.

Mr. Adams accused the Prime Minister of having binned the Mitchell Report and effectively dumping the twin-track process.

He said: "We are totally opposed to the notion of any election, that is our position. Our opposition is implacable and absolute."

Speaking in Belfast after a meeting with the Labour's Northern Ireland Ulster secretary Mo Mowlam, he said Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble — who wants elections — had already said that even if there was an election he would not engage in substantive negotiations.

Mr. Adams said he believed the British Government had "sussed out" that Sinn Fein would not reject the Mitchell proposals and therefore the Government would have nothing to hide behind and would have to go into all-party talks and play a leadership role.

"They then fell back on this election thing as another obstacle. They swapped one pre-condition for another.

"We don't need an election at this time."

Adams said that in binning the Mitchell Report — which urged the Government to drop its demand for decommissioning before all-party talks — the Prime Minister had "taken the whole process off on a tangent".

"He has opted for a Unionist agenda and has really made it very difficult for all of those who are genuinely interested in peace to actually move forward."

Mr. Adams went on: "John Major is putting his hold on political power, which is a tenuous one, before peace in this country.

"British party political and parliamentary power is more important than peace in this island."

He said essentially the Mitchell commission swept away pre-conditions for all-party talks. By dismissing it, John Major had not only shown "gross discourtesy" to those he had commissioned to make the report but had been "most unhelpful to the entire process".

Mr. Adams said that John Major held the key which could open the door to political progress, but had responded in a negative way.

He said the Prime Minister needed to accept, even yet, the democratic imperative of the peace process and take a leadership role.

He said his next step would be to get into talks with the Irish Government and other parties "to try to ensure the twin track approach removes all pre-conditions".

He said despite Mr. Major having "effectively dumped the twin track process" he was heartened by John Bruton's reaffirmation of the need for all-party talks before the end of February.

The Irish premier, returning to Dublin from France to draft his reply to an overnight letter from Mr. Major about the elections controversy, said he was "determined to overcome" the Anglo-Irish differences that had emerged this week.

But he again insisted he had not received sufficient advance notice of Mr. Major's House of Commons statement about elections — the issue that has prompted Dublin officials to talk of bad faith on the part of the British Government.

"The facts have been made known very clearly on behalf of the Irish Government," Mr. Bruton asserted.

He appealed to all sides involved in the process to focus on the arms issue document submitted by the Mitchell commission.

Speaking at Dublin's Baldonnel military airport after flying in from Strasbourg — where he yesterday addressed the Council of Europe — Mr. Bruton said the six principles highlighted in the Mitchell report were "the means to break the logjam in Northern Ireland".

He repeated his government's continuing intention to initiate all-party talks on Ulster's future by the end of next month — in line with the "firm commitment" in a joint declaration he signed, together with Mr. Major, after a meeting in Downing Street last November.

Mr. Bruton added: "This was the clear agreement and undertaking of the Irish Government and Her Majesty's government. It is in black and white, and that is what the Irish Government stands on. We stand by the agreement we made."

Meanwhile, John Alderdice, head of Ulster's middle-of-the-road Alliance Party, called for calm in the face of this week's Anglo-Irish political rowing.

Attending a committee meeting of the Irish Government's National Forum for Peace and Reconciliation in

Dublin, Dr. Alderdice urged an end to the "huffing and puffing" of recent days. [passage omitted]

Northern Ireland Security Minister Sir John Wheeler insisted the Government had not "binned" the Mitchell Report as claimed by Mr Adams.

"The British Government has accepted the Mitchell Report, it is a very helpful report indeed".

But he said the most important thing was decommissioning, and if that was started there would be all party talks.

"It hasn't started, so the Mitchell Report sketched out a number of ideas - the six principles - they are very good. I am to hear if Mr. Adams will accept them.

"But if they are accepted they have to be honoured, people need to be convinced, they need to have confidence and trust in the honouring of those principles and the best way forward is a start in decommissioning".

Sir John, speaking during a visit to Londonderry, said the report said that decommissioning would not happen - not could not but would not.

He said that if it was not going to happen the only other way forward was elections to a special assembly.

"An assembly that is limited by life, purpose and intent to bring all the parties together - there is nothing wrong with elections, they are the basic bedrock of democracy - then people can start talking from there."

He said people called for talks now, and there should be talks now, but added: "I can't drive people at the end of a pitchfork into the room to start the talks - people have to want to be there."

He could not force people to participate in elections, but challenged nationalists, saying: "Who can be frightened of the ballot box, it's the basic bedrock of democracy."

UK: Maginnis Responds to Adams Comments on Elections

MS290110996 London DAILY EXPRESS in English
29 Jan 96 p

[Letter by Ken Maginnis, Ulster Unionist MP: "IRA's Duty To Disarm"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It was always on the cards that the Mitchell Commission's report would evoke a degree of hysteria and irrationality among the more militant element of Irish republicanism.

Anything which drives home to Sinn Fein/IRA the Clinton message that "violence has no place at the table of democracy and no role in the future of this land" is bound to cause panic among those who were able to

command the support of only 4.8 per cent of the total Northern Ireland electorate at the last election.

More disconcerting is the almost passive acceptance by too many broadcasters of Gerry Adams's claim that the Government has "binned" the report. This is simply untrue.

Both the Government and Ulster Unionists have accepted the report as a complete package and have agreed to implement it immediately through a forum which will reflect the democratically expressed wishes of society in Northern Ireland.

A recent public opinion poll in Northern Ireland shows that 83 per cent want immediate decommissioning of illegal arms and that 70 per cent wish to see an elected forum to advance the peace process.

Sinn Fein/IRA refuses to consider decommissioning "even a single gun" of its 100-tonne armoury.

If such an illegally-armed organisation is to be drawn into debate about the future of Northern Ireland, and many recoil at the very thought, then there has to be some deference on its part to some element of the democratic process. Unequivocal acceptance of the six core principles in the Mitchell report must be forthcoming.

It would help if a few more TV and radio presenters could put that point to Gerry Adams and company.

UK: Major Defends Elected Convention Proposal

MS2901105896 London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH
in English 28 Jan 96 p 20

[Report on Interview with British Prime Minister John Major by Dominic Lawson and David wastell: "Convention Plan Offers a 'Passport to Talks'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] John Major had just pulled off what at first seemed a political coup from the potential disaster of the Mitchell Commission's advice on the Northern Ireland peace process: that the IRA will not begin disarming before full-scale talks on a permanent settlement begin.

But the nationalist parties had quickly rebuffed the Prime Minister's proposal for an elected convention as an alternative way to negotiations, leaving the peace process stalled once again.

Mr Major professed himself "surprised" by the reaction of the SDLP [Social Democratic and Labor Party], led by John Hume. "The SDLP for many years have been the foremost protagonists of talking," he said. "I want people to talk as well but the SDLP know there are only two ways in which everybody is going to sit down and

talk: one, if Sinn Fein/IRA begin to decommission their arms or secondly, if there is an election. There is no third way."

Legislation for a convention with Labour's support could be taken through Westminster "at speed", with elections before the spring. He set out details of how the convention might work though stressing that he would first discuss with the parties their views.

It would not be a re-invention of Stormont, he said. "It will not have legislative powers, it will not have administrative powers. It will be elected for the purpose of providing an electoral mandate to get people sitting round the table. In short, it is a passport to talks."

Those elected to the body would then nominate, from among themselves, people "whose sole responsibility would be to enter into the talks and negotiations". For that reason it would not disadvantage any part of the community, he said.

It could have anything from 30 to 90 members, probably elected by the single transferable vote system of proportional representation. The convention might then nominate more than one set of groups of people to deal with different aspects of the talks, if it wished, or negotiators who would be the only people dealing with the talks.

"Once they have an electoral mandate to sit down and talk, there is no justification for not sitting down to talk, to reach an agreement, and that is the only purpose of the body that I am proposing." Even then, there would be "staging posts" for parallel decommissioning of arms by terrorist groups, in line with the Mitchell Commission's own recommendations, to ensure mutual confidence.

"Sinn Fein would see the talks progressing and the Loyalist and others and constitutional parties would see the progressive dismantling of the paramilitary weapons and explosives."

Once agreement was reached, it would be put to a referendum, and thence — if approved — to Westminster for enactment.

"So the triple lock to safeguard the position of people remains: democratic consent of the parties in free negotiations, a referendum of all the people in Northern Ireland, and then the approval of the Westminster Parliament."

For these reasons, he said, "I know of no logical reason why any democrat should be afraid of proceeding down that path, or afraid of taking part in elections of that nature. What has been said in the past few days can only have been said on the basis that people simply have not understood what is being proposed."

He made a further point to highlight what he regards as the "indefensible" position of Sinn Fein/IRA. Even if they followed the alternative route suggested by the Mitchell Commission — starting talks before decommissioning — "before the talks got very far they would be asked to begin decommissioning, I assume".

That was exactly what would happen if they followed the elected convention route. "The talks would begin without the prior gesture, but as Mitchell proposes and as I have proposed, as the talks proceeded those decommissioning gestures would be necessary I cannot conceive that there is any logical democratic argument against that."

Could Mr Major envisage being able to shake the hand of Gerry Adams, as President Clinton had done?

"When Gerry Adams has begun to decommission and when Gerry Adams is in the talks, then a different circumstance applies, but that hasn't applied yet. It is in his hands. When he shows me that he genuinely believes in democracy, and is starting to shed arms, then I can treat him in the same way that I treat other democratic leaders."

UK: McGuinness Discusses Elections Proposal

MS2901101696 London BBC Television Network
in English 1230 GMT 28 Jan 96

[Interview with Sinn Fein Vice President Martin McGuinness, by presenter John Humphrys; from the "On the Record" program — live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Humphrys] Martin McGuinness is one of the leading figures in Sinn Fein. Mr McGuinness what have you got against elections?

[McGuinness] Well we've absolutely nothing against elections. Sinn Fein is not afraid of elections. We have over the course of the recent while proved our mandate consistently, and I think that all of us here accept that if there were to be elections, then the three major Unionist parties and the two Nationalist parties would undoubtedly be returned with roughly the same mandates as they have at the moment. The question really isn't who's afraid of elections, the question really is who's afraid of negotiations, and I think the events of this week have clearly shown that the British Prime Minister John Major and the leader of the Ulster Unionist Party David Trimble are afraid of negotiations.

[Humphrys] So will you not take part in those elections?

[McGuinness] Well I think that that's an option which will have to be considered by the Sinn Fein leadership along with others, and we will do that in due course.

[Humphrys] So you've not set your face against it?

[McGuinness] Well I think that what we have to do is have a discussion about it. Clearly what we are seeing here is a very determined attempt by the British prime minister and the Unionists to yet again put off and delay and stall all-party peace negotiations, and I think that in the context of us being 17 months into a process that is quite disgraceful and quite cowardly and very selfish indeed.

[Humphrys] So when are you going to reach a decision, when will you tell us whether you're going to take part in those elections or not?

[McGuinness] Well Sinn Fein national executive will meet and discuss that in due course, we will make our decision...

[Humphrys, interrupting] ...when is that likely to be?

[McGuinness] ...well I think it will happen in the course of next few weeks.

[Humphrys] If you don't take part in those elections, then of course you'll hear more of what we've already heard from the Unionists amongst others, saying you're scared, because you are afraid you'll be kicked out.

[McGuinness] No. Quite clearly Sinn Fein's mandate will be quite solid in any election, and I think the Unionists know that full well. What the Unionists are trying to do is buy more time. The question I repeat is not who's afraid of elections, but who's afraid of negotiations. And Mr Trimble, who has proved himself to be quite a selfish unionist leader, has also proven himself to be afraid to sit at the negotiating table with the rest of us.

[Humphrys] What you could do of course, is you could take the elections and then if you were so opposed to the assembly — the thing that it will lead to — you could say well we'll boycott the assembly.

[McGuinness] Well I think all of these options will have to be considered in due course and our national leadership will consider all of these matters. But in reality what we all have to do is recognize at the end of a week in which a very determined attempt was made by the British Prime Minister and by the leader of Ulster Unionist Party to kill all hope on this island. We must recognize that a job of work still has to be done. We must not become dispirited, we must not become demoralized or down-hearted, and we clearly have to challenge and expose the negativity of the British Government and the Unionists to the international community.

[Humphrys] And the way to do that you believe is to have these all-party talks. And the sure-fire way, the

absolute certain way of getting those all-party talks, without even having to decommission any weapons before them, is to take part in the elections.

[McGuinness] Well what you have to clearly understand is the strategies and the tactics being employed here by the British Government and the Unionists. Everyone on this island is absolutely disgusted with the behavior of the British prime minister and his cowardice. They clearly see that what is happening here is a British prime minister attempting to buy Unionist votes in order to stay in power. And of course in the grand plan of where we go from there in relation to the next British general election is also obvious that the Conservative Party are going to fight election, and one of the major items in their manifesto will be the non break-up of what they call the United Kingdom. So during that Major will show himself to be what he really is and that is a very dedicated and committed Unionist.

[Humphrys] But in a sense it doesn't matter what his motives are. What matters is what you would get out of these elections, and Mr Major's made it absolutely clear again in an interview this morning that what you would get is the all-party talks that you want. So therefore it's very very hard to see why you should not be sitting there this morning and saying "all right, we don't like the idea of elections, we think it's maybe time wasting or whatever else you may think it is, but it means we will get what we always said we wanted which is all-party talks."

[McGuinness] That is not necessarily the case. What we have seen over the course of the last 18 months and even for some months before it, is the British prime minister and his representatives speaking with a forked tongue. So Republicans are very cautious when we hear these comments from the British prime minister. The Unionists have laid their cards on the table. They believe that the establishment of an assembly or a convention will deal with only the issue of what they call the decommissioning or what we call the surrender of the IRA. So in reality Nationalists are looking at the prospect of the establishment of an elected body in the North with some considerable dismay because of the tactics and the strategies being employed by the British government and the Unionists, and the Unionists of course have received considerable support from the British Prime Minister in their intransigence and it's also very important to point out and I think this will not be lost on people, that in the course of the last 18 months we have not had one major statement from any senior member of the British government exhorting the Unionists to sit at the negotiating table with the political representatives of Irish Nationalism on this island.

[Humphrys] If you don't like that particular path that clearly you don't, that Mr Major's outlined, what about the commission's path that they have set out -- Senator Mitchell path and the six principles that he has strongly recommended that you adopt. Now are you going to accept all of those six principles?

[McGuinness] Well the British Prime Minister has effectively placed the Mitchell Report, the Mitchell Commission Report into the dustbin, it's all a very hypothetical and academic at this stage. What we have to do is recognize that we have a British Prime Minister who nailed his colors to the mast in the course of this week on Wednesday afternoon, when he said there were only two ways into talks for Sinn Fein he said, one there must be an actual decommission or surrender by the IRA and two Sinn Fein must take part in elections. So effectively the British government have dumped the Mitchell report and for many people it has become water under the bridge.

[Humphrys] But you've never allowed the British government in the past to write your agenda for you so what you can do here, you say Mr Major's put that in the dustbin, you can say we're taking it out of the dustbin, Mr Major set up along with the Dublin government this international commission, we will take those recommendations, we will put them on the table and we will endorse them, in the way that this international and independent commission said we should.

[McGuinness] Well Sinn Fein's position on the Mitchell body was that we were prepared to be constructive in relation to the Mitchell report. What we are seeing here and what we are up against a British Prime Minister which is saying quite clearly and he is being supported by the leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, that it really doesn't matter what Sinn Fein does in relation to the Mitchell report they are not going to go down that road, the road that they have now paved out for themselves is the road to an elected body, a return to an assembly or a convention which they hope will be a springboard to a full blown assembly in the North of Ireland. And Sinn Fein is totally and absolutely opposed to the concept of an internal settlement within the North.

[Humphrys] You keep telling me what Mr Major wants, you keep telling me what the Unionists want, but you're not telling me what you now are prepared to do, you're avoiding that issue all the time. Are you prepared to accept those recommendations, those six principles that were enunciated by the Mitchell Commission. That's a straightforward subject to deal with. You think they are important, you had trust in the Mitchell Commission you said so.

[McGuinness] I have no problem dealing with it at all. The reality is that we're -- the reality is, and we have to face the reality, is that we are having this conversation against the background of the British Prime Minister effectively dumping into the bin a report which he jointly commissioned with the Dublin government in the first place. I will tell you what I want, I will tell you what I believe all the people of this island want, I will tell you what the international community expects. They expect to see all the parties sitting at the negotiating table dealing with all of the issues at the heart of this conflict. So what we have seen in the course of the last week is a British Prime Minister attempting to kill hope, and the failure, if there is a failure, in all of this, is a failure of Mr Major not our failure.

[Humphrys] And if and when you get around that table, again Senator Mitchell has said what you ought to do once you get into those talks, then there ought to be some decommissioning of weapons. Do you accept that?

[McGuinness] Well Sinn Fein's position has been made quite clear in the submission which we made to Mr Mitchell prior to the announcement of his document, and we have said that we believe that it is possible to bring about the removal of all of the guns, not just the guns of the IRA but the guns of the British army, the RUC [Royal Ulster Constabulary] and over the 150,000 weapons held in the hands of Unionists as a part of a negotiated settlement. What we have to do is apply the rules of conflict resolution as they pertain in all parts of the world, and recognize that what we have to get in to negotiations for is to remove all of the injustices, all of the discrimination, all of the inequalities that have existed in this state since it was founded in the early 1920's.

[Humphrys] Mr Major has said, the British government has said they no longer have a selfish interest in Northern Ireland. Are you saying that they have now changed that view, that they do?

[McGuinness] Absolutely I think in that the course of the last 18 months has clearly shown that the British government are acting in their own self-interest. Number one to stay in power by buying the Unionists votes and number two, clearly making in the course of recent while, it quite clear that one of their central platforms in their manifesto at the next British general election will be the non break-up of the what they call the United Kingdom, the devolution for Scotland issue which they intend to fight out with the British Labor Party. So what the British government has done is clearly put their own self interest over and above the quest for peace and a negotiated settlement on this island.

[Humphrys] Martin McGuinness thank you.

UK: Mayhew on 'Divide and Conquer' Accusations
LD2901073196 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 0504 GMT 29 Jan 96

(By Deric Henderson, PA News)

(FBIS Transcribed Text) Ulster Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew has hit back at Irish claims of an attempt by Britain to split the Dublin government over the Ulster peace process.

The Republic's foreign minister Dick Spring accused London of using "divide and conquer" tactics in a huge row between the two sides following the Mitchell Report on disarmament and Mr Major's proposal to call elections to a new body in Northern Ireland.

At Hillsborough Castle last night, Sir Patrick told PA News: "I am very surprised by what he said. It is quite opposite to our intention. We want to see united nationalist opinion both within the Irish government and outside it."

"We have no interest in dividing it. We have an interest in uniting it, particularly in the context of elections which seem to us to be the way forward for all parties sitting down together if the paramilitaries do not start giving up their arms."

Mr Spring claimed government sources had suggested in briefings that there were differences on the peace process between him and his Prime Minister John Bruton. He said: "It is not just an Irish experience. We have this in many parts of the world. The British set out to divide and conquer. They have made attempts before to divide Mr Bruton's department and mine, but they have not succeeded."

Sir Patrick, who is to have talks with Mr Spring in London on Thursday, was clearly stung by the attack. He said: "I find it very difficult to understand Dublin speaking like this in public when the Anglo-Irish Agreement was put in place to enable us to have a private channel of communication so that we get rid of these problems without the benefit of microphones and also feeding of course, the ultras on either side who are the only people who really benefit from this sort of public row."

Sir Patrick's denial of Mr Spring's claim confirmed the tensions between the two governments over the future direction of the peace process. The two are due to meet in London on Thursday when Mr Spring will reiterate the Republic's opposition to any new elected body which they regard as a unnecessary delaying tactic in future progress.

SDLP (Social Democratic and Labour Party) and Sinn Fein made it clear again on Sunday they wanted nothing

to do with a forum, but the Ulster Secretary said he believed the two nationalist parties had left the door open to taking part in elections.

He said all-party talks by the end of next month was still the government's aim, but they could not begin unless the IRA began to disarm. If they refused to decommission, then all parties should be looking at the possibility of an election.

An election within the three strand process would help create confidence to get people round the table. It wasn't a new idea. Both governments he said, envisaged that last November.

Sir Patrick added: "Instead of simply folding our arms and looking at the roadblock, we are looking for a way round it....I would have hoped that people who had the peace process at heart would say: 'Lets give it a try'."

"Nobody has suggested an Assembly. The Prime Minister hasn't. The Unionists haven't. We don't want an Assembly. Call it a forum. I don't care what you call it. Its an elected body from which people can be selected to negotiate."

"They are there to demonstrate that parties have passed the electorate's test of whether they truly are committed to democratic and peaceful methods."

"Instead of people rubbishising this, I wish they would see it as a positive way forward, a positive suggestion. I can't understand why everybody is rubbishising it and saying its another obstacle. It isn't. It is an opening door instead of a closed door."

Mr Major is to meet the SDLP leader John Hume and his deputy Mr Seamus Mallon in London on Tuesday. He too will hear of the deep bitterness and resentment in nationalist areas over the government's handling of this latest phase in the peace process and what they consider to be Downing Street's rejection of the Mitchell Report.

Sir Patrick added: "I think its depressing the way all the journalists saying it's so hopeless and dreadful. It isn't. It's an open door and it may be a new beginning."

"The peace process has had these ups and downs over a very long time. Whenever we have a down, journalists say crisis. Mr Adams says it's a crisis, it's the end. Violence is going to begin very soon. But we have always come up again. Whenever we have a down, it's headlines. When we have an up, people are looking at something else."

Former Irish Prime Minister Garret FitzGerald has claimed the British government had been "stupid" in its response to the Mitchell team's report.

Joining across-the-board criticism of Britain's approach, Dr FitzGerald said he would not dignify Mr Major's reaction by calling it a thought-out strategy. He told Irish television: "I think it is a tactic by a Prime Minister who is on the run in his own parliament, worried and possibly panicking, and taking measures he thinks he needs to save himself."

"This is a situation where somebody is trying to save his bacon, it seems to me, at the expense of treating our government in an intolerable way and risking the whole (peace) process."

On the same programme, another ex-Irish premier, Albert Reynolds, who used his friendship with Mr Major to bring about the 1993 Anglo-Irish Ulster peace declaration, spoke of doubts about the Prime Minister's present commitment to the peace process. He commented: "I had no doubts right up to now. But I think that as we near a British general election, the likelihood is that survival and hopes of winning the next general election will take priority over the peace process in Ireland."

Germany: Kohl Opposes Downgrading EMU Criteria

LD2701165296 Berlin DDP/ADN in German
1550 GMT 27 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Wildbad Kreuth (DDP/ADN) — The two-day strategy talks by the CDU [Christian Democratic Union] and CSU [Christian Social Union] leadership in Wildbad Kreuth, Bavaria ended on 27 January. At the end of the meeting, CDU Chairman Chancellor Helmut Kohl spoke out emphatically against downgrading the European Monetary Union (EMU) stability criteria. The convergence criteria should be strictly adhered to, Kohl told journalists.

The German Government intends to cooperate in all areas of building the "Europe house," the chancellor underlined. There is a clear connection between the European Monetary Union and political union. The "Europe house and a weatherproof roof" are needed. Only this guarantees security, as well as peace and freedom, in Europe. The German Government and the Bundesbank both agreed that the stability criteria should not be allowed to be downgraded.

Theo Waigel, CSU chairman and German finance minister, said the monetary union is the "economically necessary answer" to the globalization of the economy. According to the European Commission, eight member states have a chance of reaching monetary union at the first attempt. Nobody can predict what Germany's stability criteria will look like at the end of 1996. If the monetary union fails, it would have "devastating consequences" for the German economy. It would lead to a real upward revaluation of the German mark and thus weaken industry and also mean further job losses.

Kohl and Waigel again called for the continuation of the Bonn coalition with the Free Democratic Party. [passage omitted]

Germany: Russia Said Increasing Espionage

LD2701104596 Berlin DDP/ADN in German
0847 GMT 27 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamburg (DDP/ADN) — Hansjoerg Geiger, president of the Office for the Protection of the Constitution [counterintelligence service], has accused Russia of stepping up its espionage activities against Germany. Even after the end of the Cold War, Moscow's agents were still disproportionately active on German territory. Geiger told the Hamburg news magazine DER SPIEGEL. Following the dissolution of the KGB, the Russian successor services were "competing with each other in spying against the West." The German Government repeatedly made it clear to the Russian side that Bonn expected "a complete wind-

ing down of espionage. That has not happened." Instead, Moscow was "increasingly reverting to the classical methods of espionage, such as cultivating contacts. If Germany gives Russia strong financial backing then it can expect not to be spied upon."

Geiger's predecessor, Eckhardt Werthebach, caused a sensation last year when he exposed 165 KGB agents, who are still in place in Germany. The new president commented: "If states have civilized relations, they must naturally inform one another about their espionage activities." Geiger warned German firms conducting business with Russia or running joint ventures against naivety: "They should be aware that former KGB officers are active in a number of these enterprises."

Germany: 'Threats' Evaluation in Bosnia Outlined

LD2801160196 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1429 GMT 28 Jan 96

[By Slobodan Jankovic]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bonn, Jan. 28 (TANJUG) — German troops within the peace Implementation Force for Bosnia (IFOR) have been given special 'support' in the mission constantly described here as very dangerous, although they are deployed along the quiet Adriatic coast, from the towns of Trogir to Zadar.

However, fears are fueled by reports that they will soon be sent to neighboring Bosnia where their engineering units will rebuild roads and their transport units supply IFOR troops.

Bearing in mind developments during World War Two, when numerous German Army divisions met a dire fate in Bosnia-Herzegovina, their grandsons now fear possible attacks, although they are now engaged in a peace mission.

The population of the former Yugoslavia, especially the Serbs, have painful memories of the German occupiers who carried out many massacres often even of civilians.

In order to protect its IFOR troops, the German IFOR headquarters located with the Defense Ministry has sent field intelligence operatives to investigate the region where German convoys will pass and to supply both the field commanders and the Bonn command with important information.

The Germans have modelled their activities on their U.S. allies, whose intelligence services also collect masses of data every day, as do the British.

The Americans have prepared fully for this part of their mission. If, for example, a U.S. soldier comes upon any kind of land mine, he should only take a picture of

it. The photograph is then digitalized and sent to the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) headquarters or to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the United States. Experts there immediately mount a massive search in the huge archives of these agencies and in a very short time send a response to their operative somewhere in the Bosnian mountains.

The Germans are not as well prepared. Their operatives will scan the terrain to be used by German supply convoys. The Germans also expect to receive information from the other IFOR members so that they could protect themselves from the 'dangers in the Bosnian mountains.'

They will specially keep an eye on the paramilitary forces, feared by all, especially the Americans. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke recently said in Bonn that Washington is much concerned about the 2,500 Mojahedin in Bosnia and that it had demanded from the Sarajevo Muslim authorities to get rid of them as soon as possible.

The Germans, however, fear that their troops could come under attack as soon as they set foot on Bosnian soil. This is why the task of their full protection has been assigned to several different services: The military intelligence service has been stationed in the Adriatic town of Trogir, and a part is attached to the Rapid Reaction Force (RRF) headquarters in Sarajevo.

The German intelligence 'umbrella', includes both military officers and civilian experts. Their main task is to 'evaluate the possible threats to their troops' in Bosnia.

Germany: Iran Said Involved in Kurds' Murder

LD2501193896 Berlin DDP/ADN in German
1425 GMT 25 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Berlin (DDP/ADN) — The Office for the Protection of the Constitution is convinced that the Iranian intelligence service was involved in the 'Mykonos' attack on four leading Kurdish dissidents in Berlin on 17 September 1992. This was confirmed by Office Director Klaus Gruenewald before the 1st Criminal Bench of Berlin Higher Regional Court on Thursday.

The witness said that a few days before the attack a team had arrived from Tehran. The attack on the 'Mykonos' restaurant in Berlin-Wilmersdorf was carried out with the help of Berlin-based secret agents, he said. One agent had alerted the assassins to the arrival of the dissidents by telephoning from the restaurant. Whether the Tehran team had fired any shots was not known.

After the assassination the team returned to Tehran as planned. Gruenewald was unable to give the departure

date. Claiming that he had not been given permission to testify, Gruenewald refused to answer questions regarding the source of his information. His source will be in great jeopardy, he said. He also refused to say whether the tip-off was given by a Western intelligence service. [passage omitted]

Four Lebanese and the Berlin-based Iranian intelligence agent Kazem Darabi are on trial. The defendants are either silent or deny any involvement in the murders.

Germany: Ruehe Sees Need for 'Flexible' NATO

AU2901113996 Berlin DIE WELT in German
27-28 Jan 96 p 2

[Report by Ruediger Momac: 'Ruehe Pleads For 'New NATO'']

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamburg/Bonn — Defense Minister Volker Ruehe (Christian Democratic Union) has stressed that Europe should become a "political union with its own strategic ability to act." It should be ready to bear responsibility and, at the same time, admit new members. Ruehe said in Hamburg on 26 January. He warned that without the integration and close mutual cooperation of its eastern neighbors with one another, "there can be no stability in central Europe and thus no security for the European Union."

At a meeting marking the change of command in the Bundeswehr Leadership Academy, the minister said there was also a need for a "new NATO" that should be able to react flexibly to new challenges — by way of preventive and active crisis management.

The new commander, Rear Admiral Rudolf Lange, was previously military attache at the German Embassy in Washington and replaces Major General Hartmut Ophoeter, who will now head the personnel department in the Defense Ministry in Bonn.

The defense minister stressed the Leadership Academy's special task in the preparation of German military officers and officers from "allied and friendly armed forces" for tasks in the "new NATO." He said the significance and role of armed forces have changed. Ruehe said the spectrum of the Bundeswehr's tasks had become "more manifold, with more facets, and, if you like, more political."

He said the Bundeswehr would, in the future, have to be able "at any time" to carry out a crisis-management mission. Accordingly, the Bundeswehr planning and the forces themselves would change. What would be needed were "task forces tailored to changing requirements." This required military leaders to demonstrate "a maximum degree of flexibility and homogeneity — in thinking, planning, and leadership."

Germany: Agreement Reached on Refugee Repatriation

LD2601151696 Berlin DDP/ADN in German
1450 GMT 26 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bonn 26 Jan (DDP/ADN) — The federal and laender interior ministers agreed at a special conference in Bonn today on the repatriation procedure for Bosnian refugees living in Germany. Gradual repatriation will begin on 1 July at the earliest. Safeguards must also be in place to ensure that there is no danger to the lives of the returning refugees, the Federal Interior Ministry announced this afternoon.

Germany: Daimler-Benz Chief on Economic Plight
AU2701165096 Hamburg BILD in German
25 Jan 96 p 3

[Interview with Daimler-Benz President Juergen Schrempp by Rolf Bier; place and date not given: "Schrempp: This Is How We Will Make Daimler-Benz Fit Again"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Bier] Now that the Fokker aircraft manufacturer has quit Daimler-Benz, what happens next?

[Schrempp] We are solving the problems and acting fast. Some people call this a cleaning-up operation, but I call it making Daimler fit again. [passage omitted]

[Bier] After its losses of 6 million marks in 1995, when will Daimler get back into the black?

[Schrempp] We absorbed these losses in 1995. In 1996 we are going to have profits again. Over 80 percent of our business is going well.

[Bier] How many jobs do you have now, and how many are you going to have at the end of 1996?

[Schrempp] Right now we employ 325,000 people around the world. By the end of the year, some 25,000 will have been taken over by other firms. Of the remaining 300,000 employees, 220,000 will be in Germany. [passage omitted]

[Bier] What is the most important task right now?

[Schrempp] To bring Daimler-Benz back on a steady track of profits. Only a profitable enterprise offers secure jobs. We will grow again and create jobs.

France: De Silguy, Trichet Confident on EMU*BR2601145596 Paris AFP in French
1356 GMT 26 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 26 Jan (AFP) -- European Commissioner Yves-Thibault de Silguy and Bank of France Governor Jean-Claude Trichet tried on Friday [26 January] to curb the recent wave of pessimism toward monetary union, and said that they were confident that it would be implemented according to the criteria and the schedule set by the Maastricht Treaty.

At a conference at Sorbonne University, Mr. de Silguy admitted that there is a "crisis of confidence" and "skepticism" as far as the implementation of EMU is concerned, which is being aggravated by "media turmoil." "These doubts appeared when some people started alluding to the economic situation to arouse skepticism about the objectives and the deadlines set in the Maastricht Treaty," he said.

"Nevertheless, confidence will return and I am optimistic that EMU will be implemented on schedule," Mr. de Silguy said.

Several French political leaders, among them former EU Commission President Jacques Delors, former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, and even some ministers of the Juppe government expressed doubts on the Maastricht Treaty this week.

"Skepticism is due to the delayed structural reforms," but also can be explained by "economic conditions" which are "the result of last spring's monetary fluctuations," Mr. de Silguy stated.

According to him, however, Europe is "not on the brink of economic recession" and "confidence must be restored." Therefore, France must "proceed with financial reforms, reinforce social dialogue, and encourage consumers to resume spending."

Bank of France Governor Jean-Claude Trichet said that he was convinced that EMU would be achieved by 1 January 1999. He also stressed that the schedule and the criteria of the Maastricht Treaty must be adhered to. "For the Bank of France, it is all very simple: There is a treaty and we must implement it; it provides for a schedule that we must adhere to; it contains criteria that we must respect."

Over the last few days, several major French employers expressed skepticism about the implementation of the single currency within the set time frame.

France's Seguin on Single Currency: 'Politics First'*LD2601162396 Paris France-Inter Radio Network
in French 1300 GMT 26 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The debate on the single currency continues. Philippe Seguin, one of the staunchest opponents of the Maastricht referendum in 1992, made a highly interesting statement this morning.

According to him, we have to salvage the single currency plan by making it part of a political plan. Philippe Seguin was speaking this morning at the French-German seminar on France and Germany on the path to the single currency, held at Aix-la-Chapelle. Listen:

[Begin Seguin recording] I have said many times here and there that the Maastricht Treaty must be implemented. Whether they voted in favor of it or against it in the 1992 referendum, all French leaders should implement it.

So, I am not going to formally express myself here in favor of either the postponement or the review of the criteria as demanded by some. This, in my opinion, would be the easy and damaging option which would keep us trapped in a highly technical approach. In other words, if we want to salvage the single currency plan we must do today what we should have done before, that is, to launch a political initiative which alone can justify, allow, and lay the basis for the single currency.

To sum up, we must put politics first. [end recording]

France: Mostar Reunification Issue Threatens Peace*BR2601160096 Paris LE MONDE in French
26 Jan 96 p 2*

[Report by "R.O.": "The Conflict Between the Croats and Muslims Regarding Mostar Is a Threat to Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the failure on Wednesday, 24 January, of the last European mediation supposed to resolve the problem of the reunification of Mostar, the Croatian-Bosnian federation is more deeply at risk than ever of foundering and falling victim to the intransigence of nationalist Croat leaders. However, under the terms of the Dayton peace agreement, this federation is one of the two entities constituting Bosnia.

"The Croatian camp has not accepted the reunification of a city in which the Croats and Bosnians would live together," the German Hans Koschnick said, 18 months after having been put in charge of administering Mostar on behalf of the EU. "Nonetheless, the people want reunification!" he claimed. Mr. Koschnick had already recently accused the "particularly nationalistic"

Croats "having links with the military leaders and some warlords" of upholding the division of Mostar.

The leaders of "Herzeg-Bosna," the self-proclaimed Croatian "Republic" in southwest Bosnia-Herzegovina called into being by nationalists, are refusing to take the first step toward reunifying the city. This step would involve merging the Bosnian and Croatian police forces, devising a plan for sharing the city by splitting it up into several districts, and restoring the population's freedom of movement. They feel that they would be committing political suicide by agreeing to cede their "Republic" to the Croatian-Bosnian federation. For these Croatian leaders, Bosnia-Herzegovina can only continue to exist by being divided up into three distinct areas protected by three armies.

"The Muslims have no option other than the federation," Hans Koschnick said. "Among themselves, the Croats are hesitating in their choice between a federation, an autonomous 'Republic,' and a Greater Croatia (in other words, joining up with Zagreb)." Some Herzegovinan leaders stand accused of war crimes by the International Tribunal in The Hague; others are enriching themselves by taking a cut on products entering Bosnia; all of them are going overboard with their nationalism so as to retain their authority and privileges.

Ever since war broke out in Bosnia, the Herzegovinan lobby has been firmly supported by Zagreb and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. Croatia had sent in its troops to support the Bosnian Croat Army (HVO [Croatian Defense Council]) in the fighting against the Serbs, at the outset, then the Muslims from May 1993 to March 1994.

In 1994, when the United States pushed for the creation of a Croatian-Muslim federation to face up to the Bosnian Serbs and end a three-way conflict for which there was no solution, Franjo Tudjman was forced to oust the all-powerful "boss" of "Herzeg-Bosna," Mate Boban. Boban pretended to leave his fiefdom and agreed to settle in Zagreb, in the gilded offices of the Ina oil company. Kresimir Zubak, a Herzegovinan "moderate," replaced him two years ago, but observers believe that his influence remains extremely limited.

In actual fact Mate Boban has never relinquished his hold over "Herzeg-Bosna." He still controls the police force, the militia, and several brigades of the HVO. "Brakovic, the Croatian mayor, does not control his police force, no more than Zubak controls the Herzegovinan lobby. Mate Boban has been in charge since day one," Safet Orucevic, Bosnian mayor of East Mostar, said.

A U.S. "Arbitrator"

So it is hardly surprising that the Croats are refusing to allow the police forces in Mostar to merge. Stranger than this is the attitude displayed by the international community, and especially the United States, the sponsors of the federation. Why are they not urging Franjo Tudjman to break Mate Boban? "They face the same problem as that concerning the marginalization of Karadzic and Mladic by Belgrade," one European diplomat said.

If attempts to reunify Mostar continue to fail, the federation could soon die. However, if the Croatian-Bosnian alliance vanished, the Dayton peace plan would be condemned to die, too. The delicate balance struck by U.S. diplomats rests entirely on the division of the former Yugoslavia into two sides, and Mostar is threatening to bring the whole edifice tumbling down.

The diplomats are now rushing to Herzegovina, aware of the urgency of saving the Croatian-Bosnian federation. Once again, the United States is on the way to saving a dossier that Europe has failed to deal with effectively, in spite of the respect shown to Hans Koschnick by the warring factions. During his recent trip to Bosnia, Bill Clinton announced the appointment of the American Robert Owen to the post of "arbitrator" in Mostar, a role which Mr. Koschnick was supposed to fulfill.

The last talks led by Hans Koschnick did not succeed in splitting up the city into newly defined districts. The Croats want to consolidate the current status quo and reinforce the division of Mostar. The Bosnians want to have at least one multi-ethnic district, "a city center serving as a guardian of civilization," according to Safet Orucevic. Hans Koschnick proposed an intermediate solution, but both parties rejected it. Mr. Orucevic's response was immediate: "We are going to approach the United States." Next week Koschnick the administrator will submit a final proposal after having consulted the respective 15 EU ministers in Brussels on Monday (29 January). After that, nothing will stand in the way of Washington's endeavor to find a U.S. solution in Mostar. "If we have not succeeded in finding a solution by mid-February, I will be back home with my wife sooner than expected," Hans Koschnick concluded, announcing his possible resignation.

The ball is now in the court of Zagreb, which must bring the Croatian extremists in "Herzeg-Bosna" to heel. The man for the job should be Gojko Susak, who is of Herzegovinan origin, and is often presented as the heir apparent to Franjo Tudjman. Mr. Susak has always supported Mate Boban and the "hardliners" in west Mostar. However, according to diplomatic sources Franjo Tudjman and Gojko Susak might now be ready to work on reinforcing the Croatian-Bosnian federation so as not to incur the wrath of the United States. This being the case, the bell is about to toll for the adherents of a "Greater Croatia."

Portugal's Gama: 'Privileged Relationship' With U.S.

BR2601152596 Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS
in Portuguese 25 Jan 96 p 11

[Report by Abel Coelho de Moraes: "A Privileged Relationship"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Portugal "is trying to cement a privileged relationship" with the United States, similar to what it thinks is the objective of other European governments, said Jaime Gama in a speech he gave at a lunch hosted by the American Club yesterday in Lisbon.

In his first appearance before the American Club, the new Portuguese foreign minister devoted a major part of his speech to bilateral relations. "The international influence and economic vigor" of the United States justify this. In Lisbon's view, the special relationship with Washington is rooted in "history, in the Portuguese communities" which live on the other side of the ocean, and in the sharing of a group of common political, human, and cultural values in trade relations and in the flow of capital between the two countries. Jaime Gama acknowledged that we are seeing a fall in the flow of capital from the United States to our country, but said he was somewhat confident, stating that the trend could be turned around "by the entry into force in January 1996 of new agreements" between Lisbon and Washington.

U. S. Interests

Naturally, the political aspects of the bilateral relationship dominated Gama's speech, and a special link brings Portugal closer to the United States, namely the presence of NATO, an organization of which both countries were founder members. On another level, the fact that Portugal is a member of the EU "is something which has given our country "an element of additional interest" to the United States. Moreover, Portugal is trying to meet this expectation by bringing the United States closer to "the European security and defense identity" and "encouraging greater transparency in relations" between the Western European Union and NATO.

Jaime Gama then reviewed some of the international situations where Portuguese-American cooperation has been consolidated in a way which he called "of great importance." Gama mentioned the peace process in Angola and the conclusion of a "cooperation and defense agreement," stating that there was "regular high-level political consultation" and the institutionalization of a defense policy in various areas.

The minister did not fail to mention Portugal's participation in the multinational force organized under the aegis of NATO in Bosnia to ensure the implementation

of the Dayton agreement. Jaime Gama took this participation as an example of the "solidarity that moves us" within the Atlantic Alliance and toward the civilian populations who are "tragically affected by the conflict."

Our military presence in that force, the Portuguese minister said, "is proportional to the resources deployed" by the United States and is an experience from which "the Armed Forces of both countries will gain mutual benefits." It is also an ideal opportunity to "cooperate closely on the ground." Before talking about bilateral Portuguese-American relations, Jaime Gama devoted a few words to "unknown aspects of the future of the transatlantic relationship," tracing out the main features in the conduct of foreign policy on both sides of the Atlantic. He first indicated the symptoms of a potential "divorce between the United States and Europe," and then said that he did not subscribe to this theory and believed that it was possible to strengthen transatlantic links.

The minister presented the Partnership for Peace and the New Transatlantic Agenda that came out of the Madrid Conference in December 1993 as the foundation for a new transatlantic relationship. The New Transatlantic Agenda sets out an ambitious action plan in areas such as the pacification of the former Yugoslavia, peace in the Middle East, the strengthening of relations with central and Eastern Europe, compliance with human rights, the fight against drugs and terrorism, and the creation of a free trade zone. All of this, Jaime Gama said, creates a framework of "common objectives and values" and "an economic interdependence that is sometimes forgotten."

"A Common Trunk"

The minister began his speech, entitled "The Transatlantic Relationship: A Personal Reflection," by sketching out two major currents which run through the conduct of American foreign policy: involvement in and greater attention paid to external conflicts and, as Gama called it, the "fantasy of isolationism." Jaime Gama ended with a quote from President Bill Clinton: "Our destiny in America is still linked to Europe." Those words led Jaime Gama to conclude rather enthusiastically: "If all the European nations" were to cultivate their relationship with the United States as our country is doing, then it would be "easy to understand" the reasons for the optimism in the relationship between the Old Continent and the New World, since they both "descended from a common trunk."

Portuguese Embassy in Manila

The possibility of resuming diplomatic relations with Indonesia is linked to the Timor issue. This is, and will continue to be, the Portuguese position, said Jaime

Gama during a lunch at the American Club. The minister answered a question on the possibility of Portugal and Indonesia re-establishing relations, a scenario which Gama does not want to entertain until there has been a "qualitative change" in the "static model of occupation and integration" followed by Jakarta in East Timor. Indonesia should have a more constructive position, in accordance with the prevailing criteria governing international law and human rights before one can consider resuming diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Jaime Gama took the opportunity to stress the importance of the region on the international scene and the heightened importance which Portugal has decided to give it. In this respect, he announced a forthcoming trip to China — which should take place in the second half

of February — and the upcoming opening of a diplomatic mission in Manila, capital of the Philippines. The choice of the Philippines was justified as the Foreign Minthat country, like Indonesia, is an emergin g power in the region and has the particular feature of being — as a result of its former status as a Spanish colony — the only country in the region with a Catholic majority.

The minister said that diplomatic relations with Asia are something that must be "developed with urgency." As far as the Portuguese Government is concerned, in addition to relations with China — where the process of transferring sovereignty is of particular importance — Jaime Gama mentioned Japan, India, and Thailand as countries which Portugal is trying not to neglect in its relations with the region.

Spain: Negotiates Aircraft Carrier Sale to PRC
BR2301134196 Madrid ABC in Spanish 23 Jan 96
 p 23

[Report by Luis Ayllon: "Spain Is Negotiating With China Sale of Two New Aircraft Carriers Worth 90 Billion Pesetas"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Madrid — Spain is negotiating with China the sale of two fixed wing aircraft carriers of a model not marketed hitherto. Bazan National Enterprise President Eduardo Abellan yesterday began a visit to China during which he will try to persuade the Chinese authorities to opt for the offer by Spain, which has just launched another ship, sold to the Kingdom of Thailand. The possible sale of the ships would open the Asian market's doors to the Spanish defense industry even further.

The selling of the Chakri Naruebet to Thailand has increased other Asian countries' interest in the products of Bazan, which has just built a ship on the model of the Principe de Asturias — the Spanish flagship. Countries such as China, Vietnam, Malaysia, and India have shown that interest in Bazan, and, in fact, Bazan President Eduardo Abellan has gone to Beijing to try to work out with the Chinese authorities the possibility of selling two aircraft carriers of a new model which has not yet been marketed.

This is apparently one of the so-called "pocket aircraft carriers," with a displacement of 20,000 tonnes and 205 meters long. Their name stems from the fact that it is smaller than traditional aircraft carriers, although also somewhat larger than the Spanish Principe de Asturias or the Chakri Naruebet, sold to Thailand, which have a displacement of 11,600 tonnes and measure 182.6 meters in length. Another difference is that their landing strip was designed for conventional takeoff aircraft such as the F-18 or the naval version of the MIG-29, while that of the Spanish flagship can take vertical takeoff aircraft. Specifically, the model offered to China would have room for 21 or 22 aircraft.

90 Billion Pesetas

Bazan is negotiating with China the sale of two aircraft carriers of this type, worth 45 billion pesetas each, which would include the construction of the hull and the propulsion. A second stage would include the weapons systems, which would increase the project's cost.

THE FINANCIAL TIMES yesterday reported on its front page the Chinese authorities' interest in Bazan's aircraft carriers, in an attempt to modernize their fleet, and also the fact that a naval strengthening of China

could cause concern among some countries of the region.

Specifically, it asserted that tension could increase with respect to the dispute over the Spratley Islands in the southeast China Sea, sovereignty over which is claimed both by the Beijing regime and by Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei. Although many observers do not believe that this dispute could cause a conflict, the fact is that these countries are very interested in securing sovereignty over the Spratley Islands, on whose continental shelf it is believed there could be considerable deposits of oil and gas.

Following the transaction conducted with Thailand — the first country to purchase an aircraft carrier from another (as published) — reaching an agreement with China would certainly be quite a success for Bazan and a way of fully entering the Asian market at a time when the countries of the area have appreciably increased their purchasing power in attaining annual average growth rates of 8 percent.

Chinese Growth

China itself, despite maintaining a Communist regime, has embarked upon an economic liberalization which has enabled it to experience a certain growth over the past few years. This, combined with the increase in the volume of its foreign trade, has caused its leaders to consider the advisability of undertaking now the modernization of its Armed Forces, with the aim of strengthening its presence in the area.

Bazan could benefit from the good relations which Spain maintains with China, which has become the main recipient of Spanish credits from the Development Assistance Fund. The visit which their majesties the king and queen paid to China last April highlighted those good relations and gave a new impetus to bilateral contacts, which have resulted in a greater presence of Spanish businessmen in the area.

Spain was one of the first Western nations to send its foreign minister to Beijing, just after the international sanctions imposed because of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre of students were lifted. King Juan Carlos was also the first EU head of state to visit China since that time.

The Chinese Government, very sensitive to foreign gestures, is taking these circumstances into account and has shown considerable interest in the Bazan National Enterprise aircraft carrier. In fact, its defense minister, Chi Haotian, paid a visit to Spain last September, during which he inquired about the possibility of Spain's building the aircraft carriers which China wants.

Defense Minister Gustavo Suarez Pertierra had also planned a visit to China for January which he canceled following the dissolution of the Cortes. In any event, nobody is unaware that the negotiations could be lengthy before a final agreement is reached.

Spain: Bilateral Treaties Signed With Mexico

BR2601140896 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1849 GMT 25 Jan 96

[Unattributed report: "Mexican President Begins Visit to Spain To Strengthen Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Madrid, 25 Jan (EFE) — Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo yesterday began a state visit to Spain to strengthen bilateral relations and promote the political and economic ties with Europe, at a time when his country is recovering from the economic crisis suffered last year. [passage omitted]

The Mexican delegation mainly comprised the secretaries of foreign relations, finance, and trade, who today signed seven cooperation agreements with ministers and other Spanish authorities with respect to trade, culture, finance, tourism, scientific cooperation, and information.

One of these agreements was signed by Juan Alberto Belloch, minister of justice and the interior, and Secretary of Foreign Relations Angel Gurría with respect to cooperation on the prison system to draw up studies to

modernize the Mexican system in accordance with the Spanish experience, with the aim of humanizing punishments and promoting prisoners' rehabilitation.

The two countries' foreign ministers — Carlos Westendorp and Angel Gurría — met at the Viana Palace today and later met with the news media.

Gurría announced that the extradition treaty signed by Spain and Mexico will enter into force within the next few weeks, once the procedures concerning the protocol amending the document, which excludes terrorist acts from political offenses and includes economic offenses, have been completed.

The Mexican secretary of foreign relations stated that only an "exchange of notes" between the two countries remains outstanding, and its entry into force will be "automatic," while Westendorp emphasized the importance of this agreement, which also includes economic offenses, "to prevent the two countries from becoming refuges" for those who commit them.

Gurría referred to Mexico's political, economic, and trade agreement with the European Union, and said that its signing could take place in the second half of the year, during Ireland's European presidency, or even in 1997, during Luxembourg's term, and he pointed out that "the matter is too important to make it urgent." [passage omitted]

Greece: Government Said To Favor EU Initiative

NC2701215196 Nicosia Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Greek
1700 GMT 27 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Greek Government desires an EU initiative on the Cyprus issue and appears reserved regarding a U.S. initiative, assessing that Europe faces the Cyprus issue more positively than the United States does. The ATHENS NEWS AGENCY reported that, according to their sources, this position was suggested by the Foreign Ministry to Prime Minister Konstantinos Simitis for inclusion in the policy statement which the prime minister will submit to the Greek Chamber of Deputies on Monday (29 January) afternoon.

The agency further points out that European orientation by the new Greek Government was also affirmed at yesterday's news conference by Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos.

According to the same sources, National Defense Minister Yerasimos Arsenis asked in his suggestion to the prime minister that mention be made of the Greek-Cypriot unified defense doctrine and stated that the new Greek Government is committed to continue the same policy.

The ATHENS NEWS AGENCY also reports that it expects the Greek prime minister's reference to the Cyprus issue will be particularly warm with regard to both Athens-Nicosia relations and cooperation between the two governments. Mr. Simitis has already collected the suggestions of all the ministers and is preparing the text of his policy statement, which will take final form after a cabinet meeting on Monday morning.

Greece: Pangalos Discusses Foreign Policy Views

NC2601190496 Athens Elliniki Radiofonias Radio Network in Greek 1600 GMT 26 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos today gave a news conference on the entire spectrum of national issues, such as Cyprus, Skopje [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FY-ROM], Greek-Turkish relations, and Albania. He noted especially that the new Yugoslavia might recognize Skopje. Our correspondent Mirella Kalousti reports:

[Begin recording] [Kalousti] In his first long news conference, Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos said there is no prospect of changing the Greek foreign policy, adding that the government is bound by the 1993 policy statement. Referring to the policy statement that will be made by Simitis' government to the Chamber of Deputies on Monday (29 January), the foreign minister

said they are working on this important policy statement. Referring to foreign policy, Pangalos said the vast majority of Greeks approve its current content. Pangalos announced that Alternate Foreign Minister Yeoryios Romaos will be in charge of Greeks abroad, adding that he has proposed prominent figures to Simitis for the position of secretary general for the Greeks abroad and he is awaiting his decision. Pangalos and Romaos assured the correspondents that interest in the Greeks abroad will not decrease the slightest bit.

Pangalos stressed that the Cyprus issue has worsened and Turkey has become more arrogant in the Aegean because of the incident over the rocky islet of Imia in the Dodecanese. Ankara claims that the islet is in Turkish territorial waters. Pangalos stressed that this is the first time that Turkey has made territorial claims, adding it would be a shame if this is part of some deliberate strategy by Ankara, since it will not help to smooth out Greek-Turkish relations. Although he said it was an accident that the Turkish ship ran ashore on Imia, Pangalos criticized Ankara's diplomatic reaction, calling it unacceptable. So far Ankara has claimed that it is not claiming any Greek territory, but—in its opinion—only its rightful sovereignty in the Aegean Sea.

[Pangalos] So far, in a demagogic exercise for public benefit, Turkey has firmly stated that it is not after any Greek territory. Turkey has been saying: We merely have disagreements over some sovereignty issues. And this was indeed the truth, with just the minor exception of the games played near the islets in the Evros River every time there is a natural diversion of the river. In any case, let us just say that this was accidental and might not happen again. Really, this is the first time that Turkey has made territorial claims, because these rocky islets are our territory—small, peculiar bits of territory, but still our territory.

[Kalousti] Referring to the Cyprus issue, Pangalos said his first meeting as foreign minister will be with his Cypriot counterpart Alekos Mikhailidhis. He appeared reserved about the role that Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for European Affairs, might play in solving the problem. Pangalos reiterated that Cyprus is an international problem and any effort portray it as Greek-Turkish dispute is erroneous. He added: In this sense, we support the U.S., European, and UN efforts.

Asked about the appointment of an EU coordinator for Cyprus, Pangalos said the Greek Government wants the coordinator to be a high-level figure with extensive authority who must report to the Council of Ministers. He did not hide the fact that British diplomats are trying

to play down the role of a European representative for Cyprus.

Finally, he noted that the EU's cajoling of Turkey has not achieved any progress regarding respect for human rights or reducing terrorist incidents, and it has certainly not affected Turkish intransigence over Cyprus.

Belgrade has assured Athens that it does not intend to change its stance and will not recognize Skopje under any name other than the one currently in use—that is, FYROM. The foreign minister reiterated the firm Greek position on the continuing negotiations over the neighboring state's name. He said Greece is trying to keep "Macedonia" or any of its derivatives from being included. Pangalos said he believes this can be achieved, adding that in talks with the head of the Greek delegation in New York, Ambassador Khristos Zakharakis, he had instructed him accordingly.

[Pangalos] The pending recognition of Skopje by some countries—specifically new Yugoslavia—must be under their internationally recognized name, FYROM.

[Kalostipi] Yugoslav Foreign Minister Milan Milutinovic is expected to visit Athens early next week, when he and Pangalos will discuss Belgrade's stance extensively.

Foreign Ministry Political Director Filon and Ambassador Kipraos, the official in charge of Balkan issues, will visit Tirana in a few days. Pangalos said the Greek Government aims to see that the Greek language is taught in public schools in Delvine, Sarande, and Gjirokastra. He said he believes the illegal immigrants working in Greece must be legalized, adding that he is optimistic about the future of Greek-Albanian relations.

Greece: Arsenis Briefs Diplomats on Imia Islet

NC2801201296 Athens Elliniki Radiofonika Radio Network in Greek 1800 GMT 28 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Turkey has perpetuated a new provocation against our country. The National Defense Ministry announced that Turks hoisted the Turkish flag on the rocky islet of Imia. On orders from the national defense minister today, members of the navy patrol boat Panagopoulos lowered the Turkish flag and hoisted again the Greek flag.

At a meeting held in the National Defense Ministry this afternoon, National Defense Minister Yerasimos Arsenis was briefed on the incident by the members of his staff. According to reports from the National Defense Ministry, an armed vessel of the Turkish coast guard is now in the area of the Imia rocky islet, only 1.5 km from the Greek navy ship.

According to press reports, Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos is holding meetings with foreign ambassadors and briefing them on Turkey's provoking stance on the Imia incident. He has already met with U.S. Ambassador Thomas Niles and the Russian ambassador, and is now meeting with the Turkish ambassador to our country. At the same time, Alternate Foreign Minister Yecoryios Roumelis has summoned the 15 EU ambassadors in Athens and he is briefing them on the Turkish provocation.

However, the Turkish side is downplaying the incident and attributing it to circles who attempted, through the Turkish newspaper HURRIYET, to create false impressions.

HURRIYET today reported that members of its Izmir office landed with a helicopter on Imia islet yesterday, where they lowered the Greek flag and hoisted the Turkish instead. The same newspaper also notes that the Turkish Foreign Ministry disapproves of this action and Turkish Foreign Under Secretary Inal Batu said that any problems should be resolved in a peaceful way, through diplomatic channels. In any event, the assessment of reliable Istanbul circles is that today's HURRIYET report is an attempt to bolster Turkish public opinion, which has been exhausted by the prolonged weakness in the formation of a new government.

Greece: New Ministers in Simitis Cabinet Profiled

NC2601132996 Athens ATHENS NEWS in English 23 Jan 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The cabinet sworn in yesterday with Prime Minister Konstandinos Simitis seems more like a deep reshuffle than a brand new socialist administration. Its freshest feature: its smaller size compared to the cabinets of the Eighties, achieved by eliminating most of the deputy ministers.

Seventeen new faces join the cabinet, 28 familiar faces leave, 12 familiar faces get new jobs and 11 members stay right where they were.

About a quarter of the new cabinet, 10 of its 41 members, have never held a cabinet seat before.

Premier Konstandinos Simitis has considerably reduced the size of his cabinet. But Andreas Papandreu, whom Simitis was elected to replace, actually holds the record for the trimmest—just 19 members—but also for the most bloated, at 58.

The cabinet is also one of the youngest, with an average age of 48. The oldest member is the new labour minister, veteran socialist Evangelos Yiannopoulos who was born in 1918, and the youngest, Justice Minister

Evangelos Venizelos, who was born in 1957. The first-time appearances are:

(1) **Dimitrios Reppas**: Press minister and government spokesman. Reppas, 44, is a dentist who has been a member of PASOK [Panhellenic Socialist Movement] since it was founded in 1974. Active in student politics, he was also elected to office in the PASOK youth organization, before becoming a member of the party's central committee in 1984. He is a founding member of the Yeoryios Yennimatas Foundation. He is MP for Arkadhia.

(2) **Yeorgios Dhris**: Deputy finance minister. Dhris, 52, has been secretary-general of the Agriculture Ministry and is also secretary of PASOK's Social Movement Department. A researcher at Patras University, Dhris was one of the founding members of PASOK. In 1983 was a member of the board of the Panhellenic Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives. In 1990 he was elected member of PASOK's central committee, to which he was re-elected in 1994. Dhris is MP for Corfu.

(3) **Lambros Kanellopoulos**: Deputy labour and social security. Kanellopoulos, 48, was one of the founding members of PASOK. In 1983 he was appointed general director of Olympic Airways. He later became leader of the General Confederation of Workers of Greece [YSEE]. He was a member of PASOK's central committee from 1984 to 1994. Kanellopoulos is an MP for Athens' second electoral district, and was one of the founding members of the George Yennimatas Foundation.

(4) **Theodoros Kotsonis**: Deputy health and welfare minister. Kotsonis, 51 is a doctor of medicine and secretary-general of the Athens Medical Association. He is an alternate member of the PASOK parliamentary group presidium. Kotsonis is MP for Korinthos.

(5) **Emmanouil Loukakis**: Deputy environment minister. Loukakis, 59, studied civil engineering at the Athens Polytechnic. He is one of PASOK's founding members

and a member of the party's central committee. In 1982, he was appointed prefect of Khania, Criti, and in 1985 prefect of Iraklio. He is a founding member of the Yeoryios Yennimatas Foundation and MP for Rethimno, Kriti.

(6) **Franginos Papadhelis**: Deputy health and welfare minister. Papadhelis, 51, is the alternate coordinator of PASOK's government programme on health committee. A doctor, Papadhelis has been secretary-general of the Panhellenic Doctors' Association and chairman of the Athens Doctors' Association. He is MP for Lesbos.

(7) **Lambros Papadhimas**: Deputy interior minister. Papadhimas, 57, is a doctor of medicine, a member of the National Science Council and one of the founders of the National Health System (ESI). He was mayor of Lamia from 1982 to 1993 and the first Greek vice-president of the European Union of Municipalities and Regions. He is MP for Phiotis.

(8) **Yeoryios Paskhalidhis**: Deputy education minister. Paskhalidhis, 45, is a graduate of civil engineering from the Athens Polytechnic. He has been a member of PASOK's central committee since 1980 and, in 1994, was elected secretary of PASOK's documentation and political and ideological information sector. He is MP for Pella.

(9) **Andreas Fouras**: Deputy minister for sport. Fouras, 49, was a leading member of the resistance organization Rigas Feraios during the dictatorship. He was a founding member of PASOK in 1974, and a year later was a member of the party's central committee. He acted as Pireais prefect between 1983 and 1987 and, in 1988, became secretary-general to the prime minister's office. He is MP for Akhaia.

(10) **Apostolos Fotiadhis**: Deputy agriculture minister. Fotiadhis, 43, has been a member of PASOK since 1978. In 1982, he was a member of the prefectural council of Evros. He is MP for Evros.

Turkey: Ciller Comments After Yilmaz Rejects Offer

TA2701151996 Ankara TRT Television Network
in Turkish 1331 GMT 27 Jan 96

[News conference by Tansu Ciller, prime minister and True Path Party leader, after her meeting with Motherland Party leader Mesut Yilmaz at DYP headquarters — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Ciller] Motherland Party [ANAP] leader Mesut Yilmaz and his colleagues visited us a little while ago and conveyed to us their decision. ANAP and Mr. Yilmaz made the following declaration: We reject the proposal you submitted us. We do not accept it.

I regret to say that a historic chance has been missed. The True Path Party [DYP] proposal to ANAP contained an offer to form an election alliance that would have paved the way toward the unification of the two parties, in addition to forming a coalition with ANAP, and a rotational premiership model, which is a first in our political history. We had already brought this proposal to ANAP prior to the elections in the hope that an election alliance would be formed. Recent developments have shown, however, that the opportunity that was missed then should be given a second chance and put to better use now. For this reason, I think that a historic mistake was committed when this opportunity was missed for a second time.

We brought the rotational premiership model to ANAP, without losing any time and without considering alternative proposals, because of the approach displayed by ANAP officials to the effect that they would accept such a proposal. In other words, the rotational premiership model was put forward by ANAP officials. They told us that they would take part in a coalition only if such a model is adopted. We, in turn, accepted this model, which is a novelty in our history and which they said they will accept, without wasting any time and without giving thought to other approaches even though this model is a serious self-sacrifice on the DYP's part. We said: Let us implement this model, since you want it. We brought this proposal to ANAP, considering our legislation as of no importance, within the framework of the authority granted to us along the lines of the understanding that it was the model they wanted. They said today that this model could not be operative particularly in terms of trust. In other words, they told us that an assurance cannot be given regarding the second term of premiership because it had to be shared by other parties. I regard this as very unfortunate. Under these circumstances, why did they present this model to the public as a model acceptable to the DYP?

Our only hope for finding a solution to this situation is that democracy will function with all its rules and institutions in the coming days. We trust only democracy and its rules and institutions. [passage omitted]

The rotational premiership model was taken to ANAP in accordance with their wishes. I regret to report that trust in democracy has been undermined. Distrust in democracy is also lack of respect for democracy. Everybody should abide by democracy and its rules, institutions, and regulations. There is no other way to find solutions, and we consider all the other approaches as lack of respect for democracy. No party has the right to interfere in the internal issues of the other party, and we consider such interference as a serious lack of respect for democracy.

Consequently, we see today that ANAP rejected this model which they in the first place found reasonable and discussable. We describe this rejection as letting a historic opportunity slip by. It is a pity that things turned out this way. The country deserved better and needed this coalition and election alliance in which personal issues and past disagreements were left aside. The country needed this coalition to be established in an atmosphere where there was no competition.

I repeat: We are sad; the responsibility and the blame, however, does not lie with us.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mrs. Ciller, will you have any new proposals to submit to ANAP in the coming days?

[Ciller] We will take up ANAP's rejection in the authoritative bodies in the next few days. We have not met any other party leaders up to now. For this reason, we will assess the situation after listening to the views of the other party leaders.

[Correspondent] Do you have a timetable?

[Ciller] No, there is no timetable. We will proceed with our initiatives in the coming days. As you know, the rejection of our proposal was submitted to us only today. The rejection was communicated to us only a little while ago. We did not meet with any other party leaders, did not hold any other meetings, and did not submit any other proposals because we approached ANAP without wasting any time. The 45-day period has not yet started. Everything will proceed in line with rules and regulations. The institutions and rules of democracy will function. We took our proposal to ANAP first because we sought to have the government established as soon as possible. We did not undertake any other approaches. We waited for their answer in a bid to establish the government as soon as possible.

Their answer was conveyed to us today. Our pertinent bodies will now conduct an assessment of the situation.

[Correspondent] What do you think about a rotational minority government between ANAP and Democratic Left Party (DSP) with DYP support from outside? The task of forming a government has been assigned to you. For this reason, might you form a minority government with the Republican People's Party and seek ANAP support?

[Ciller] We will listen to all the political party leaders. I would like Mr. Ecevit himself to tell me of his proposals. I would like to hear Mr. Ecevit's proposals from himself even though certain reports have appeared in the press. We will pursue this process by conducting a serious assessment of these proposals and try to understand them after hearing them from Mr. Ecevit.

Turkey: Yilmaz Comments After Rejecting Ciller Offer

TA2701173296 Ankara TRT Television Network
in Turkish 1539 GMT 27 Jan 96

[News conference by Motherland Party leader Mesut Yilmaz after meeting with Tansu Ciller, in Ankara — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Yilmaz] [passage omitted] The Motherland Party [ANAP] Central Decisionmaking Council and Assembly Group assessed separately the proposal submitted to us by Tansu Ciller, True Path Party [DYP] leader and prime minister, and rejected it unanimously. What emerges from this assessment is the following: ANAP deputies do not trust Mrs. Ciller and do not believe that a government headed by her will be successful.

I went to DYP headquarters with my colleagues in a bid to convey this decision. Mrs. Ciller told me that she concluded from our rejection that we are ready to cooperate with Mr. Erbakan [Welfare Party, RP, leader]. I, in turn, told her that the task of forming a government would never have been assigned to her had we sought to form a government with the RP and accepted the proposal submitted to us by Mr. Erbakan. Mrs. Ciller told me then that she will contact the other parties and that democratic regulations will continue to function.

As you know, Mrs. Ciller, after being assigned the task of forming a government, said that she would bring a coalition proposal only to ANAP, that she will not take any proposals to any other parties, and that she will meet them only within the framework of courtesy calls. I had told her during our previous meeting that she had to submit alternative proposals, if she had any, during this meeting and that it would not be in accordance

with regulations for her to come with each proposal and wait for our rejection before submitting another one. I realized from her reaction to our rejection that she intends to hold on to this task for a long time. Just before the meeting ended I reminded Mrs. Ciller that democratic regulations, which she says are so important, call for her to relinquish this task as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

You are aware that Mr. Erbakan relinquished the task of forming a government in nine days. Mrs. Ciller's nine days will be over tomorrow. In view of our rejections and her previous announcements to the effect that she will not conduct any coalition talks with other parties, Mrs. Ciller has to give this task back to the president without wasting any more time. The only reason why no solutions to this issue have been found up to now is because Mrs. Ciller did not show any inclination to accept any other model than the one that supports her assumption of the post of prime minister.

ANAP has no intention of meddling in the internal affairs of another party. Naturally, the issue of who will be DYP leader concerns only DYP members. My colleagues, however, stated that they will not give their vote of confidence to a government established under Mrs. Ciller if a coalition government with our participation is in question and if this coalition government can come into office only by a vote of confidence of my colleagues. This is a joint decision reached unanimously by all ANAP deputies in the parliament, and not the isolated decision of a few group members. For this reason, it is impossible for ANAP to participate or give its support to a government established under Ciller. Mrs. Ciller should come to terms with this reality, and this should be taken as a starting point so as to pave the way for future initiatives to yield successful results. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Has the road to ANAYOL [acronym meaning "main path," based on a combination of elements in ANAP and DYP] been definitely blocked?

[Yilmaz] Ciller's path is blocked, not the road to ANAYOL.

[Correspondent] Did Ciller bring you any proposals at all? There were press reports that she would propose certain alternative models.

[Yilmaz] Mrs. Ciller did not bring us any proposals. She said that she will meet with other parties, that the DYP authoritative councils will conduct an assessment of our responses, and that they will meet us once again if necessary. The impression I had from her statements is that she thinks her task will continue for 45 days.

According to us, however, her task ends tomorrow at the latest. All initiatives undertaken as of now will undermine the democratic rules and regulations which she says are so important for her. Not relinquishing this task will only result in delaying the formation of a government.

[Correspondent] Is there a question of the president's taking back the task?

[Yilmaz] The president, during his meetings with political parties before assigning the task of forming a government, told me that the time allotted for this task should not exceed a week or 10 days and that he can reassign the task if this time is exceeded. I hope that the president will act along these lines if Mrs. Ciller does not relinquish the task assigned to her.

[Correspondent] Will you go forward with the ANAYOL model or approach the RP in the event that you are tasked with forming a government?

[Yilmaz] ANAP will assess the situation should I be so tasked and I will try to fulfill this task as soon and as effectively as possible.

[Correspondent] Will you pursue your search toward forming an ANAYOL?

[Yilmaz] I repeat, as I also told Mrs. Ciller, that I do not close any doors. Our doors are not closed to any party. Claims to the effect that we have already reached an agreement with the RP, however, are false. We would have accepted Mr. Erbakan's proposal if we were that bent on forming a government with the RP. I would like to add that Mr. Erbakan's proposal is more constructive than Mrs. Ciller's. We have already said that our reason for not giving an affirmative response to Mr. Erbakan was aimed at evaluating all possible alternatives. The only reason for today's deadlock is Mrs. Ciller's insistence on the premiership.

[Correspondent] Mrs. Ciller claimed that her proposal to you was made because you said you would accept it.

[Yilmaz] Certain statements issued by Mrs. Ciller during her news conference today are unfortunately not correct. I told this to her during our meeting. We did not say that we would accept a rotational system. I only said that the rotational system may be a system that is open for discussion. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Will you submit a proposal to the RP without waiting for the president to reassign the task?

[Yilmaz] We will not bring any proposals to anybody without the president's assigning us the task of forming a government. Our proposals will take into consideration all contacts held up to now should the president task us with forming a government.

[Correspondent] Mrs. Ciller described your rejection as letting a historic opportunity slip by. She also said that the historic opportunity was a unification on ANAYOL. Do you agree with this view of hers?

[Yilmaz] No. Only one reality materialized in the wake of our rejection: that an ANAYOL government will not be formed under Ciller. This is the missed opportunity, and it is in terms of Mrs. Ciller. There are no missed opportunities in terms of Turkey; on the contrary, we are exploring the possibilities of rescuing the country from this situation, which has been going on for 33 months, and we believe this cannot be conducted with Mrs. Ciller. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Will you give outside support in the event Mrs. Ciller forms a minority government with the Republican People's Party or the Democratic Left Party?

[Yilmaz] No, we will not give our support. The decision we made yesterday is very clear. We will not participate or support any government model under Ciller.

[Correspondent] Under these circumstances, the only condition for forming an ANAYOL is a third person's assuming the post of prime minister.

[Yilmaz] This is not an issue that can be resolved during Ciller's term in office. Mrs. Ciller has to relinquish the task since it is obvious that she will not be able to secure ANAP's support during her term in office — or she should submit a proposal to the RP.

[Correspondent] Will you propose a third person for the post of premier if you are tasked with forming a government?

[Yilmaz] I will not comment on any speculation in connection with my assuming the task of forming a government.

[Correspondent] Is there a chance that the president will assign you the task of forming a government?

[Yilmaz] I will also not comment on any of the president's privileges. There is talk of democratic rules. These democratic rules stipulate that Mrs. Ciller relinquish the task of forming a government, and the same democratic rules stipulate that I be assigned the task of forming a government.

[Correspondent] What do you think of the reports that Mr. Erbakan expects the task to be assigned to him?

[Yilmaz] This is Mr. Erbakan's views and I respect them; nevertheless, the authority to assign the task lies with the president.

[Correspondent] What will you do if Mrs. Ciller relinquishes her task?

[Yilmaz] I and 81 percent of Turkey will welcome such a move.

[Correspondent] What do you think of speculation that ANAP, if it forms a coalition with the RP, will dissipate within the RP and that DYP will gain more power?

[Yilmaz] I do not want to comment on something that has not happened yet. As ANAP, we have conducted extensive assessments regarding our position in connection with the future of the country. For this reason, nobody — in particular those who undertook futile efforts to eliminate ANAP — should concern himself on our behalf. We will decide on our future and bear the consequences ourselves.

[Correspondent] The reality that ANAYOL cannot be formed with Ciller has taken shape now. You have further pointed to the possibilities of an ANAYOL formula under a third person. Who, in your opinion, can be that third person? You stated that there are members in your party and other parties who are qualified to head an ANAYOL formula. Can you name those persons?

[Yilmaz] It is impossible for me to name names because the issue under consideration is a coalition government and this can be achieved only through conciliation. These names can be determined only through conciliation. I only say that this is a possibility.

[Correspondent] Do you expect Mrs. Ciller to propose a third name?

[Yilmaz] Mrs. Ciller has been authorized to offer herself as prime minister. She has to relinquish her task since we rejected her proposal envisioning herself as prime minister when she approached us. Alternative models can be discussed within the framework of the ensuing process. There is no need for the task to be reassigned in order to hold discussions on this issue.

[Correspondent] Did Mrs. Ciller say to you that she will make courtesy calls or hold coalition talks with the other parties?

[Yilmaz] She said that she will listen to their views.

[Correspondent] Can you say at this stage that the RP is closer to ANAP than DYP?

[Yilmaz] No, I am not saying such a thing. DYP is the party with which we can easily make conciliation in terms of our views and programs. The only obstacle to this is Mrs. Ciller's insistence on the premiership.

[Correspondent] Mrs. Ciller said that your response will be assessed at the relevant party bodies. Will you hold another meeting with the DYP in the event that the DYP

party bodies decide to submit a coalition proposal to you under the premiership of a third person without Mrs. Ciller's relinquishing the task of forming a government?

[Yilmaz] No.

Turkey: RP Accepts Only Erbakan as Prime Minister

TA2701124896 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 26 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Welfare Party [RP] deputy leader Recai Kutan has said that the most valid government formula is a coalition between the RP and the Motherland Party [ANAP], and that Tansu Ciller must relinquish the task of forming a government without further delay.

At a news conference in parliament, Kutan said that it has become obvious that despite pressure from certain circles, an ANAYOL [meaning "main path" based on combination of elements in ANAP and DYP, True Path Party] government cannot be established. Kutan alleged that ANAP leader Yilmaz distrusts Ciller, and that the ANAP assembly group also announced that it does not want a government under Ciller.

[Begin Kutan recording] Nor does our nation want a government under Mrs. Ciller. Everybody believes that if Mrs. Ciller could have done anything, if she could have rendered a service, she would have done so during the past four years. On the contrary, she greatly exacerbated the problems of the country. Consequently, a great majority of our nation is definitely opposed to such a formula. There are not many alternatives left. As far as we can see, the most valid alternative is an RP-ANAP coalition. For this, the point we particularly stress is that Mrs. Ciller should relinquish the task without further delay. [end recording]

Kutan pointed out that Tansu Ciller should not waste the country's time by paying courtesy calls on certain parties.

The RP leader charged that those who claim that the RP is a marginal party are fake democrats, adding that these claims are being posited by circles concerned that the regime of profiteering in the country will be over. He stressed that trying to leave out a party that received 6 million votes is disrespect for the nation and the voters.

Replying to questions, Kutan said that the RP does not insist on setting up a coalition exclusively with ANAP. He said that if the conditions are right, the RP can set up a coalition with the DYP as well. He added, however, that it is impossible for the RP to accept a government formula with a prime minister other than Necmettin Erbakan.

Turkey: Ecevit Favors 'Rotational Minority Governments'

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[FBIS Translated Text] Democratic Left Party [DSP] leader Bulent Ecevit has stated that the meetings held between the True Path Party and Motherland Party show that a dialogue between their leaders is impossible let alone partnership in a government.

Replying to an ANATOLIA correspondent's questions, Ecevit said that he had hoped that some details regarding the government issue would be taken up during the Ciller-Yilmaz meeting. Ecevit stressed that the Ciller-

Yilmaz meeting was the shortest meeting in the history of politics. Noting that he, being aware of the crisis of trust between the two leaders, had submitted certain proposals, Ecevit explained: I suggested that the issue of who will be prime minister first be resolved through equating the authorities of the prime minister and deputy prime minister. I then suggested that the two parties establish rotational minority governments. I made these suggestions in order to give them a chance to put an end to their daily arguments.

Ecevit further stated that it is impossible for the DSP to partake in or support any coalition government that also includes the Welfare Party.

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